



IN CONFERENCE CONTROL

Comets surge ahead in race for the conference All Sports trophy



	Football	Cross Country		Soccer		Tennis	Volleyball	Golf		Swimming		Wrestling	Basketball		Bowling		Chess	Academic	Total
		B	G	B	G			G	B	G	B		G	B	G				
	8.5	9	11	11	11	9	11	9	11	11	11	11	10	9	5	11	11	11	180.5
	8.5	11	8	8	6	8	7	11	7	8	7	6	10	8	3	5	4	7	132.5
	6	6	9	9	7.5	7	7	7	4	7	8	9	5.5	11	1	0	3	9	116
	6	4	3	7	7.5	2	9	8	5	5	6	7	8	7	8	7	8	6	113.5
	6	8	6	6	5	11	5	6	9	9	9	5	2	3	2	2	9	8	111
	3	5	5	3.5	9	5.5	7	5	8	6	4	8	5.5	4	9	8	7	5	107.5
	11	7	7	3.5	4	3.5	3	4	6	4	5	3	1	1.5	7	4	5	4	83.5
	2	2	4	5	3	3.5	4	2	2	2	3	4	4	6	4	6	2	1	59.5
	4	3	0	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	7	5	11	9	1	3	56
	1	1	0	1	2	5.5	2	1	3	0	0	2	3	1.5	6	3	6	2	40

Graphic by Erin Brush

Eric Miller | Staff Writer

In the sphere of athletics, a three-peat is hard enough, but the Mason athletic program has gone above and beyond. As of the end of the winter sports season, Mason has all but won an eighth consecutive all-sports trophy.

At the end of the fall season, the Comets had tallied 90.5 points with second place Lakota East having picked up 74.5 points over the nine fall sports. Across the winter sports Mason won championships in boys basketball, wrestling, girls and boys swimming, girls bowling, academic team, and chess. Heading into the spring season, the Comets lead second place Lakota East 180.5 to 132.5.

Athletic director Scott Stemple said that winning the all-sports trophy is a total reflection of all of Mason's athletic teams.

"Winning state championships is great and when our individuals go on and win state championships (that's great)," Stemple said. "Winning consistently in your conference across the board is a more pure reflection of success."

Head girls soccer coach Andy Schur said a change in culture around athletics and the support of parents has helped to cultivate winning at Mason.

"We've got great kids, we've got great families who support their student athletes and help put them in positions to be successful," Schur said. "I think the culture around Mason now is one of winning. I think there's an expectation."

While other schools are focused on winning a league title in a particular sport, Stemple said he prioritizes keeping all sports on an even playing field and not favoring one over the other.

"My approach as an athletic director is no one sport ever above any of the other sports," Stemple said. "No program is more important than the other because to every kid that's in those activities, that sport is their life and it's important to them so we don't compromise."

Schur said Stemple is true to his word when it comes to an equal playing field for all of Mason's athletic programs.

"I think he lives what he preaches," Schur said. "I feel very, very supported by the athletic department in terms of my program. I feel very good about the perceived value of my program inside Mason's bigger picture."

Since they joined the league in 2007, Mason has had a firm control on the all-sports trophy. Stemple said this has stirred conversation about splitting the GMC into divisions to hand out multiple

all-sports trophies, like the GWOC who gives an all-sports trophy in each of its three divisions.

"Sometimes a coach will throw out, 'Hey, maybe we should divide the GMC into north and south and have two different divisions within a conference to afford more championship opportunities,'" Stemple said.

Stemple said that, to the best of his knowledge, the members of the GMC aren't interested in expanding.

"There's been no conversation in our meetings about expanding," Stemple said. "If there are schools in our conference that are exploring some of that it's not been made public to us. Our feeling as a conference is that bigger isn't always better. The problem with bigger is, the bigger you get the more different you get."